ABSTRACT

Based on an area which was accessed by a just-previous read

command and an area which is required by a present read command,

5   the direction of the access, the interval between the areas, and

the area size are detected, and the position and size of an area

on a disk memory medium where prereading of data is to be carried

out are determined by using the detected values.   Therefore,

prereading of data can be efficiently carried out in response to

10   continuous read commands which request data that are located in

the backward direction, i.e., the direction in which an address

decreases, or data that are located separately at equal intervals.

15